

Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

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THE ELECTION, PEACE, AND RELIGION

The impending election and the preceding two months of campaigning present a dismal prospect to Americans deeply concerned about peace. The Fellowship of Reconciliation has never officially endorsed or opposed any candidate for political office, and will not do so now, but a significant number of FELLOWSHIP readers have written of their dismayed conviction that neither major candidate offers any promise of creative moves toward peace. Some West Coast pacifists have actively sought wide agreement on a possible write-in "protest" candidate, arguing that many voters would welcome an opportunity to register their unhappiness over the conventional militaristic approach to world tensions of both Kennedy and Nixon.

The case against such an effort is formidable, of course. The write-in process itself is complicated, since voters do not technically vote for President but for a slate of electors. It seems likely that many of the reluctant voters will have convinced themselves by November that the philosophy of the lesser evil requires them to vote for one of the candidates in order to keep the other out.

The sad prospect that the campaign will not produce any effective debate on the peace issue is further darkened by a rapidly rising tide of the ugliest kind of religious prejudice directed against the Roman Catholicism of Senator Kennedy. While many leading Protestant churchmen have spoken out against the injection of religious intolerance, the press has reported hundreds of other ministers are using their pulpits to campaign against "putting a Catholic in the White House," and that a growing volume of crude anti-Catholic "hate literature" is flooding the mails.

Such a campaign, if it is not vigorously opposed, could leave a residue of great bitterness in its wake. It would obscure the real issues of the campaign, and raise for the rest of the world once again an image of this country unlike

"Conflicting Loyalties"

"The issue of 'conflicting loyalties' is by no means confined to the Catholic...As a Protestant I must state that my highest loyalty is not to the United States of America; my highest loyalty is to God and to the God specifically made known in Jesus Christ. God, at last report, was not an American (some prominent Protestant clergymen in Washington, D.C., to the contrary notwithstanding), and Jesus Christ is not an Anglo-Saxon nor even a European, but one who lived his life in that very suspect part of the world known as the Middle East. In most things I am sure that I can serve God through the fact of my American citizenship, but if it should come to a point where the two loyalties are in clear conflict, I am quite sure where my ultimate loyalty belongs, and only hope that I would have the moral courage not to falter in that choice: 'We must obey God rather than men.'"

Excerpt from An American Dialogue by Robert M. Brown and Gustave Weigel, S.J., Doubleday & Co.

what we would like it to be. FOR members and other readers of FELLOWSHIP, regardless of their personal political preferences, should be on the alert to introduce the "ministry of reconciliation" into the discussion wherever possible. In some cases this

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The Election (*cont'd*)

may mean taking a public stand against innuendoes and outright untruths being told about Catholics and Catholicism; in others it may offer opportunities for small meetings in which individual Protestants and Catholics can become better acquainted and informed about each other's beliefs and attitudes. (The Brown-Weigle book quoted from on page one is a good place to start.) In any case, Christians who are also pacifists will see their task as reconciling those of differing faiths in an awareness of their common role as children of God.

Sit-Ins and Wade-Ins Continue; Receive Religious Backing

Participants in the Congress of Racial Equality Interracial Action Institute in Miami, Fla., began relay sit-ins at the local Shell City restaurant on Sept. 5, where previously eighteen Institute members were arrested for sit-in demonstrations. Groups were asked to leave each time they sat-in and no incidents were reported.

Twenty-three restaurants in Miami have now opened to Negroes. Of eighteen sit-inners previously arrested, seven, including CORE executive secretary James R. Robinson, served ten days in jail before trial. Both they and the eleven who chose bail were found guilty and placed on probation for a year.

Meanwhile, more than 100 whites and Negroes swam and picnicked together at Crandon Park in Miami, Fla., last month. No incidents were reported. The

demonstration was also sponsored by the local CORE Institute.

Support for nonviolent demonstrations against discrimination in the South was expressed by the United Christian Youth Movement meeting in Williams Bay, Wis. last month. "Seeking every opportunity to witness to our conviction in obedience to our Lord," the group said in a resolution, "we will join them in these efforts in the ways which are appropriate to the circumstances in which we live." The UCYM, an agency of the National Council of Churches, represents more than ten million members of 19 denominational and 44 state youth councils.

Similar backing was also expressed by the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice meeting in St. Louis, Mo., on Aug. 29. "Sit-in demonstrations against segregation, when peacefully conducted," the group pointed out, "are a 'morally legitimate' form of anti-discrimination action."

Polaris Action Enters Civil Disobedience Phase

Four men made two attempts to enter the submarine base in Groton, Conn. on Sept. 5 in a nonviolent protest against Polaris missile-firing submarines. The four, participating in the summer-long Polaris Action project, were carried out bodily by base authorities in both instances. No arrests were reported.

A similar demonstration occurred at the Electric Boat shipyard in New London, Conn. on Aug. 29, when a total of twelve men climbed onto a floating drydock, where they were seized by a team of guards who removed them without violence and deposited them on a sidewalk outside the Groton shipyards. None were arrested despite laws stipulating penalties ranging from a \$50 fine for simple trespassing to a jail sentence of 30 years for espionage. The no-arrest procedure was an apparent attempt by Electric Boatyard authorities to reduce publicity and support for the demonstration. Nevertheless, local press, radio and TV coverage of this and two previous civil disobedience protests were excellent.

NEWS from the peace front

The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Negro Baptist minister in Birmingham, Ala. asked the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta last month to conduct a full investigation of theailing and mistreatment of his three children which occurred in Gadsden, Ala., on Aug. 16. The children, traveling from the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn., to Birmingham, were arrested, removed from a bus and jailed by Gadsden police. While under detention, the three claimed, they received injuries from allegedly brutal police treatment. "The safety of my children is not my only concern," Shuttlesworth asserted in a statement to the SCLC. "People must feel free to travel without fear that while exercising their legal and constitutional rights they will be treated like common criminals and abused by police."

* * *

Nuclear weapons were termed "the work of the devil" by British FOR vice-president Rev. Lewis MacLachlan speaking at a meeting in Minneapolis, Minn. last month. Continued production of such weapons, he pointed out, is "piling up hatred and ill will and is just leading to disaster." The Christian alternative to war, he asserted, is "the simple gospel of the Christian faith -- the gospel of forgiveness as symbolized by the cross."

* * *

Former FOR Southern Regional Secretary James M. Lawson Jr. became pastor of the Scott Memorial Methodist church in Shelbyville, Tenn. last month. The appointment followed Lawson's attendance at the summer session of the Boston University School of Theology, where he received a degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology.

In March, Lawson was dismissed from the Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tenn., for his leadership in lunch counter sit-ins.

* * *

A Federal judge in Washington, D.C. last month rejected a plea by Nobel prizewinning scientist Dr. Linus C.

Pauling, requesting the court to block action by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee ordering him to name individuals who assisted him in petitioning against nuclear testing. Pauling conscientiously refuses to turn over names because to do so would make him an informer and might lead to "reprisals against these believers in the democratic process."

A total of 178 University of Pennsylvania faculty members issued a resolution in July denouncing the harassment of Pauling by the Senate Committee.

* * *

FOR member Byron L. Johnson (D.-Colo.) will campaign for re-election to Congress this year. During his past two years in office, Johnson opposed greater military appropriations, urged increased UN support, and helped introduce resolutions challenging nuclear weapons giveaway.

Also, FOR member Hayes Beall of Lombard, Ill. is the Democratic nominee for Congress from the 14th district of Illinois and is running against the incumbent Elmer Hoffman. Also, FOR member Tyler Thompson of Evanston, Ill., is the Democratic nominee for Congress from the 13th District and is running against the incumbent Marguerite Stitt Church.

* * *

FOR member Rev. Robert E. Hughes was jailed in Bessemer, Ala. on Sept. 2 for refusing to give "satisfactory answers" in a grand jury investigation of *The New York Times* articles on racial conflict in the Birmingham area. Hughes, who is executive director of the Alabama Council on Human Rights, refuses to turn over the financial records of his organization contending that they have "no bearing on the case." The judge has ordered Hughes jailed until he "purges himself," which means he can be held indefinitely until he answers to the satisfaction of the grand jury.

(Continued on next page)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please allow 4 weeks—supply both old and new address.

The *Times* published the articles in question last spring under the byline of Harrison E. Salisbury, and is now a defendant in libel actions filed by Birmingham and Bessemer city officials who assert that the articles slandered "every law enforcement agency in the county."

LIT NOTES

An updated paperback edition of *The Causes of World War Three* by C. Wright Mills is now available from FOR. Just published by Ballantine Books, it contains material not found in other editions including comments on the U-2 and the Summit. Price: 50¢. Also issued by Ballantine: a brand-new 50¢ paperback of Martin Luther King's *Stride Toward Freedom*. Order from: Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

Copies of "You Are a Bad Mother" by June Robbins are available from Fellowship Publications. Reprinted from the August *Redbook*, the article gives a sympathetic account of pacifist mother Marjorie Swann's arrest and imprisonment for her part in last year's Omaha Action project. Price: 5¢ each. Write: Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

The new Jane Addams Engagement Calendar published by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and featuring cartoons on peace and disarmament is now available. Price:

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Box 271, Nyack, New York

Jan W. Suter
10 Kirkland Road
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

\$1.35 each. Write: WILPF, Jane Addams House, 2006 Walnut St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

"The Moral Equivalent of War" by William James is now available from FOR. This new 12-page printing of the pacifist classic is priced at 25¢ a copy. Write: Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

MISSING MEMBERS

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing members, please advise the Membership Secretary, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

Here are the names, with last-known addresses for each: Kathryn L. Ash Eddy Asirvatham; Rev. Kenneth C. Askew (Naperville, Ill.); Robert B. Aubrey, Mr. and Mrs. Loyde Aukerman (Winston Salem, N.C.); George A. Aupperle; Roger W. Axford (Madison, Wisconsin); Joseph Ayres (Hastings, Minn.); Henry G. Babcock; Frank R. C. Bacon (Winnetka, Ill.); Shirley B. Bader; Rev. and Mrs. Karl Baehr (New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y.); Rev. K. Roy Bailey (Wichita, Kans.); Mary E. Bailey.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 4-5. Special vigil line and seminars on "Christian Alternatives to Germ Warfare" at the Vigil at Fort Detrick, 324 West Patrick St., Frederick, Md. Seminars: 9 a.m. -- 2 p.m., Wednesday. Speakers: Dr. Frank C. Laubach and others.

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